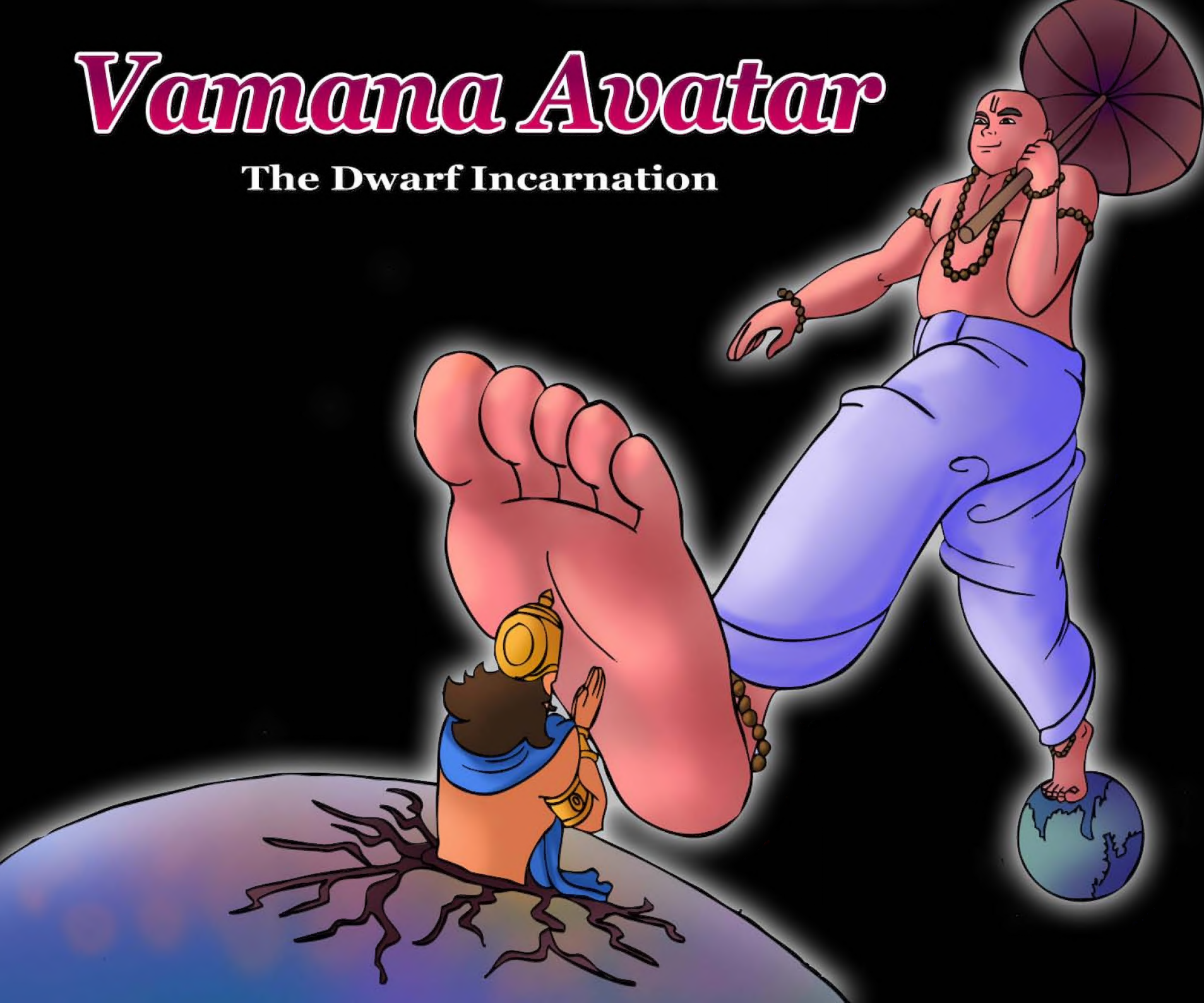
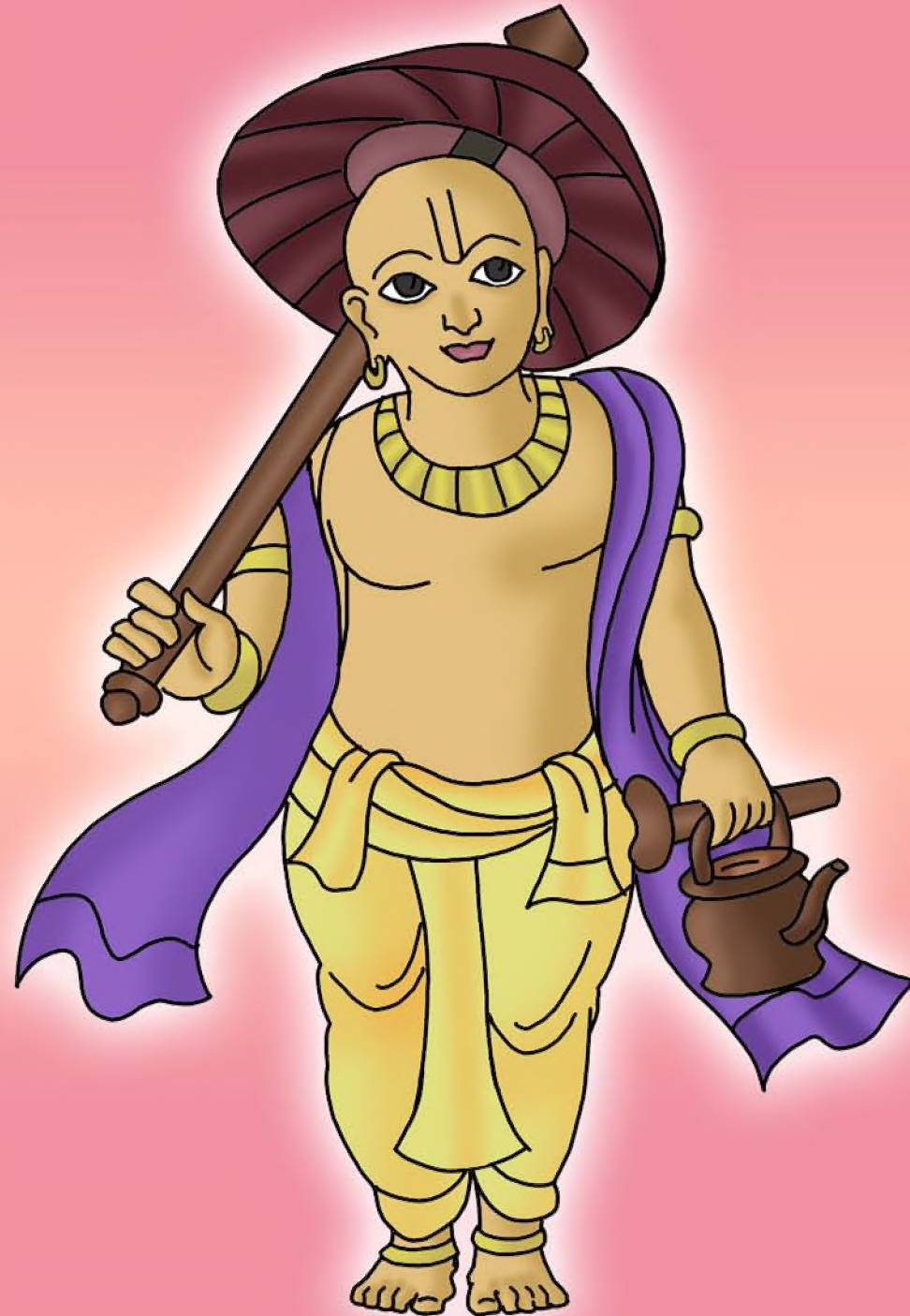


Vamana Avatar

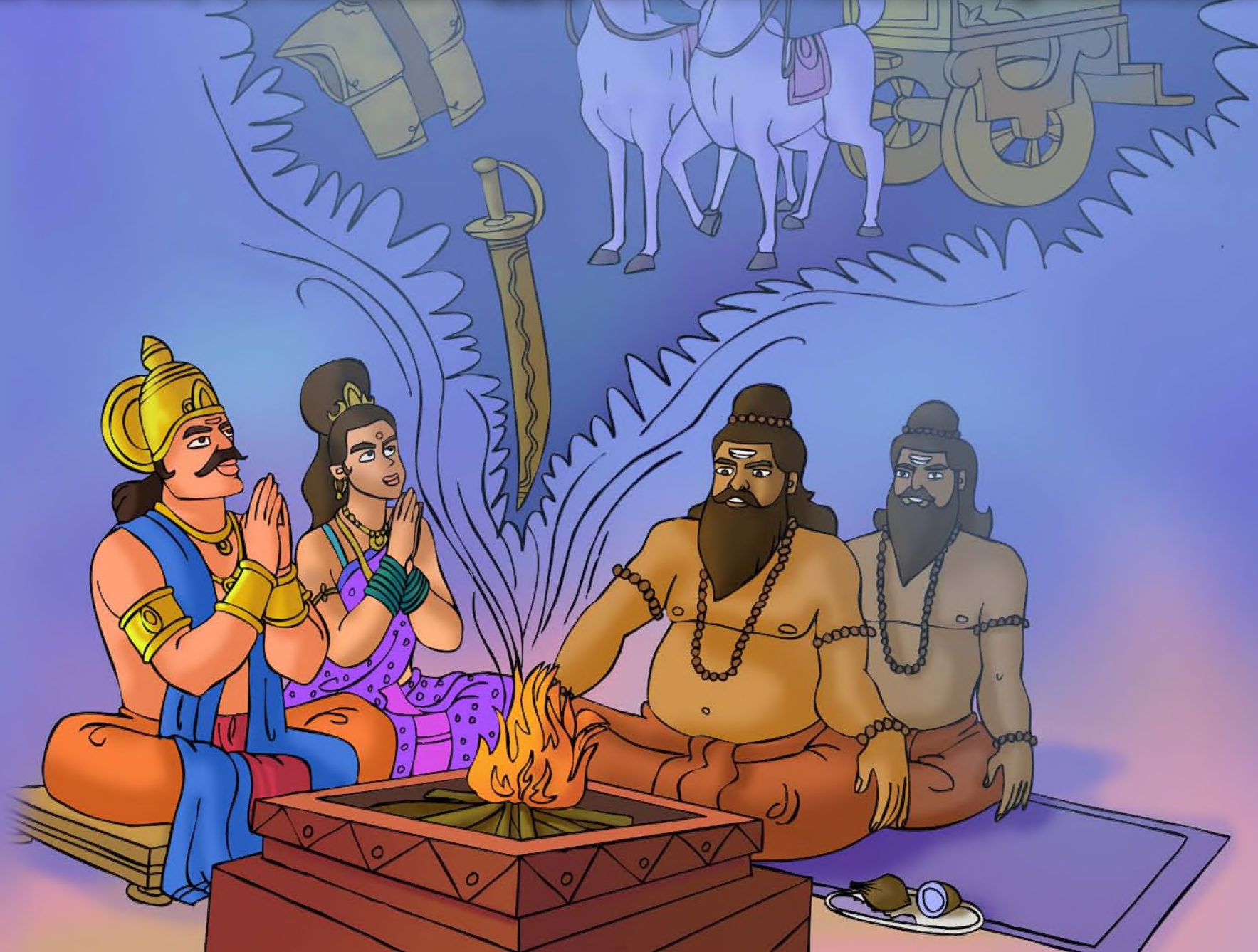
The Dwarf Incarnation



Vamana Avatar is the fifth amongst the Dashavtars of Lord Vishnu.



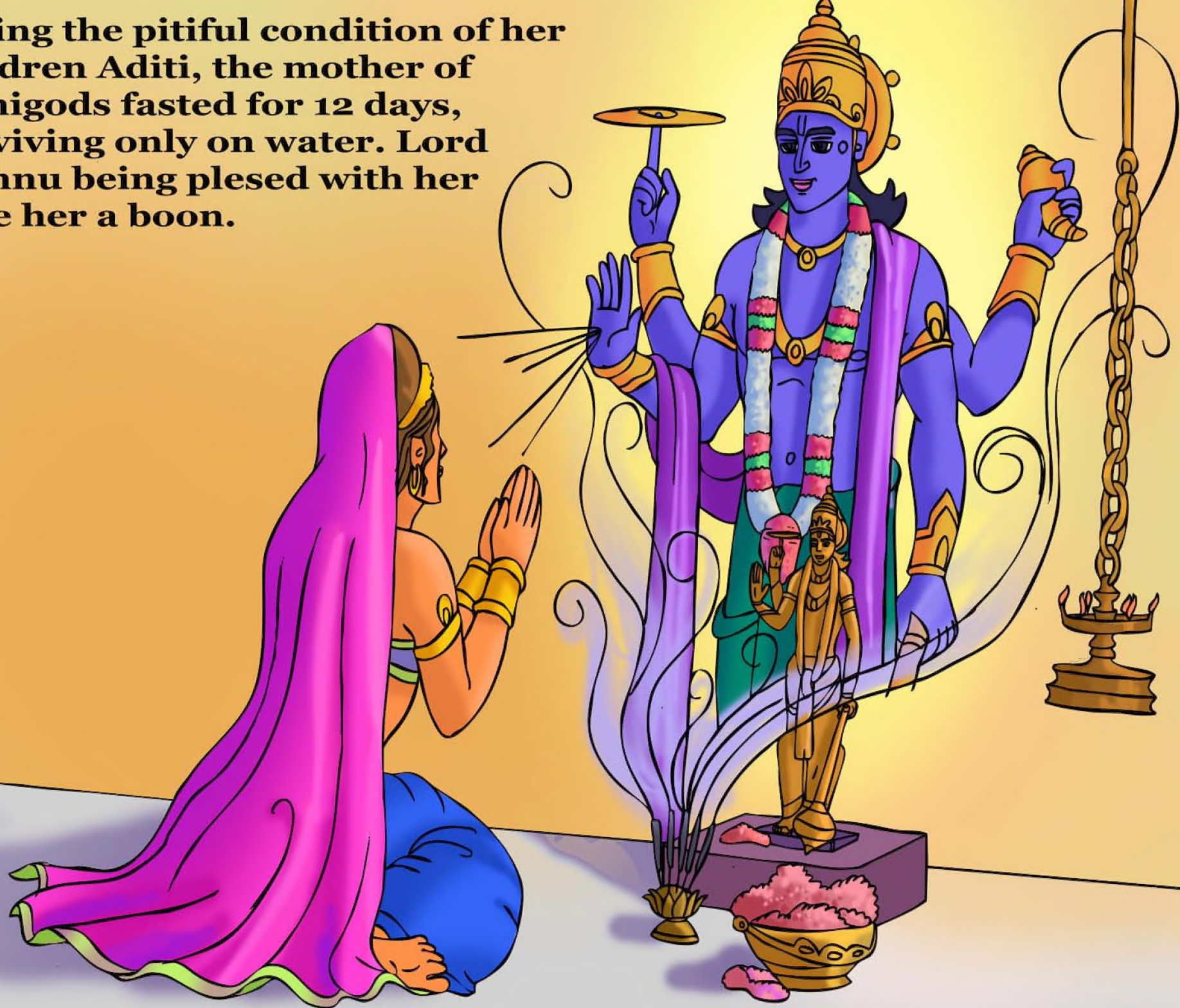
The great devotee, Prahlad Maharaj, had a grandson named Bali. Once Bali Maharaja performed a Yajna (sacrifice) with his guru, Shukracharya. The Demigods became pleased with him and gave him a divine chariot, an endless supply of arrows and an impenetrable shield.





Bali Maharaja became powerful after performing the sacrifice. He attacked Devnagri, the city of demigods. All the demigods ran away in fear.

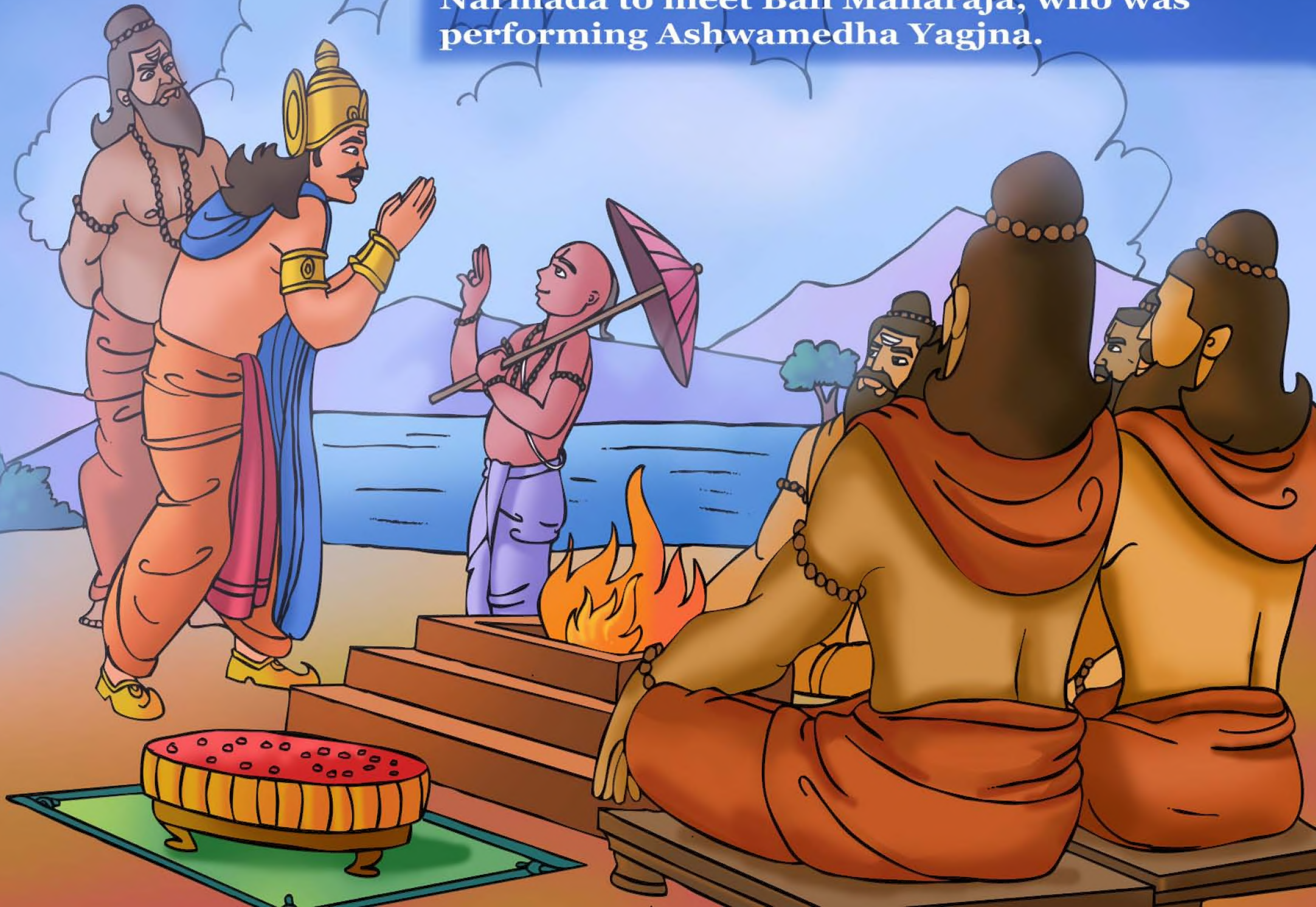
Seeing the pitiful condition of her children Aditi, the mother of demigods fasted for 12 days, surviving only on water. Lord Vishnu being plesed with her gave her a boon.



According to Lord Vishnu's benediction Aditi gave birth to Vamana, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Vamanadeva was born as a dwarf.

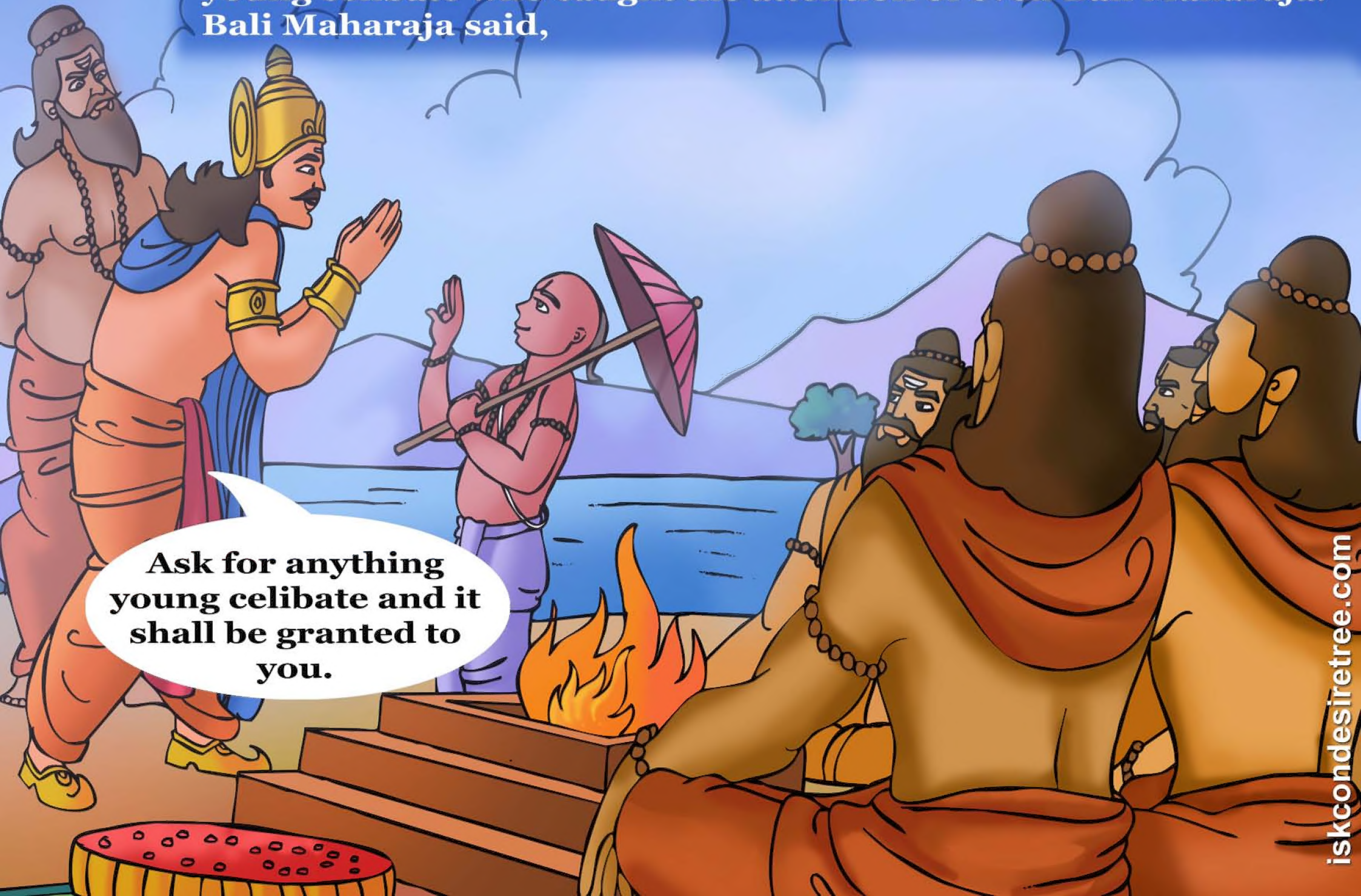


Lord Vamanadeva arrived on the banks of river Narmada to meet Bali Maharaja, who was performing Ashwamedha Yajna.



Everyone saw Vamanadeva and honoured him. He was a bright young celibate who caught the attention of even Bali Maharaja. Bali Maharaja said,

Ask for anything
young celibate and it
shall be granted to
you.



Vamanadeva said,

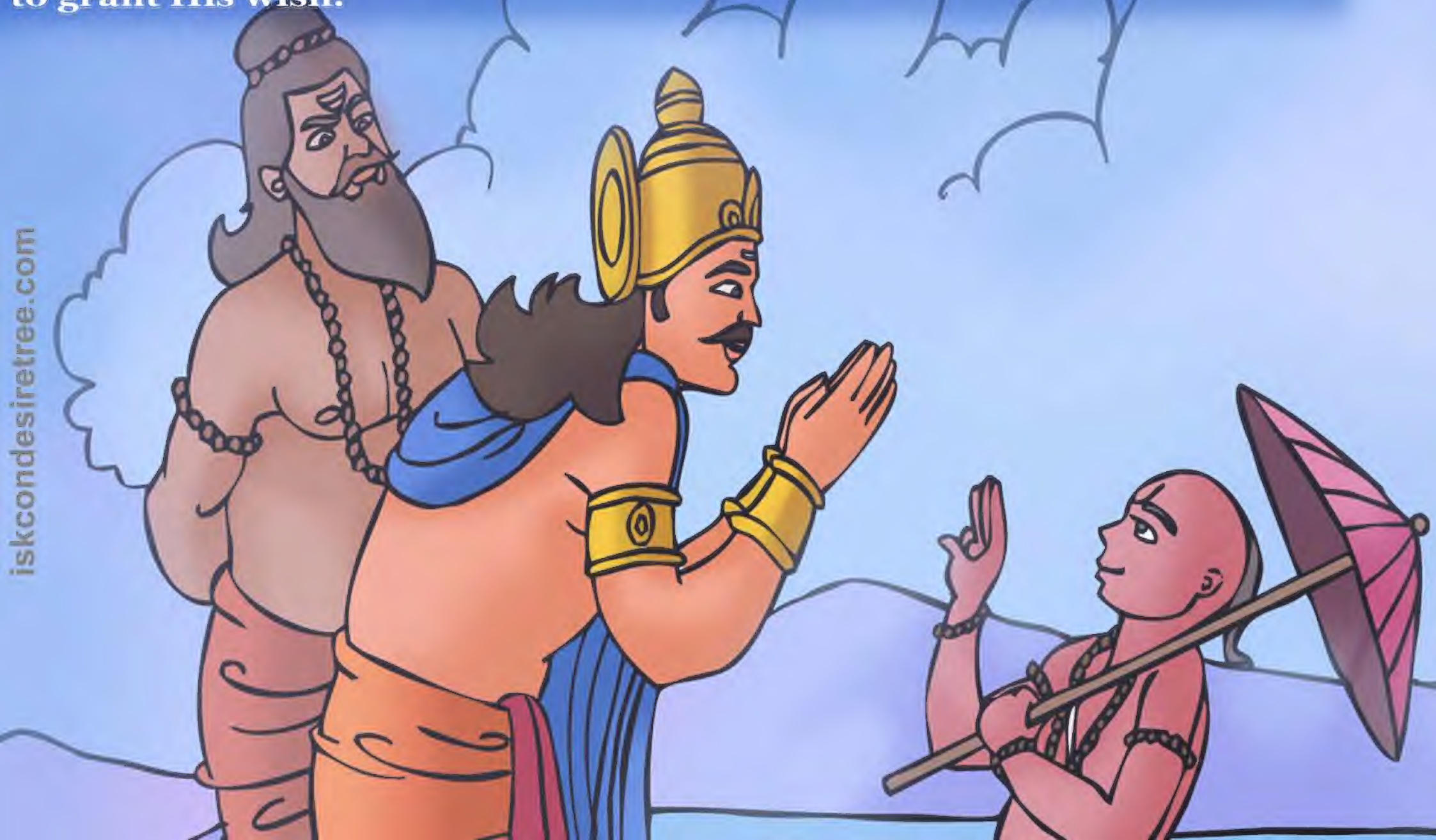
**Oh! King of
Demons, all I need
is a little bit of land.
I just want three steps
of land.**



Bali Maharaja was very pleased with Vamanadeva's humble disposition and decided to fulfill his wish. As soon as Shukracharya heard this, he came running to Bali Maharaja.



Shukracharya warned Bali Maharaja that Vamandeva was an incarnation of Lord Vishnu therefore he should not grant Him His wish. Bali Maharaja was overwhelmed that the Supreme Personality of Godhead had come at his doorstep to ask charity. Hence he decided to grant His wish.



All of a sudden Vamanadeva became gigantic. With his first step He covered the entire Earth planet.



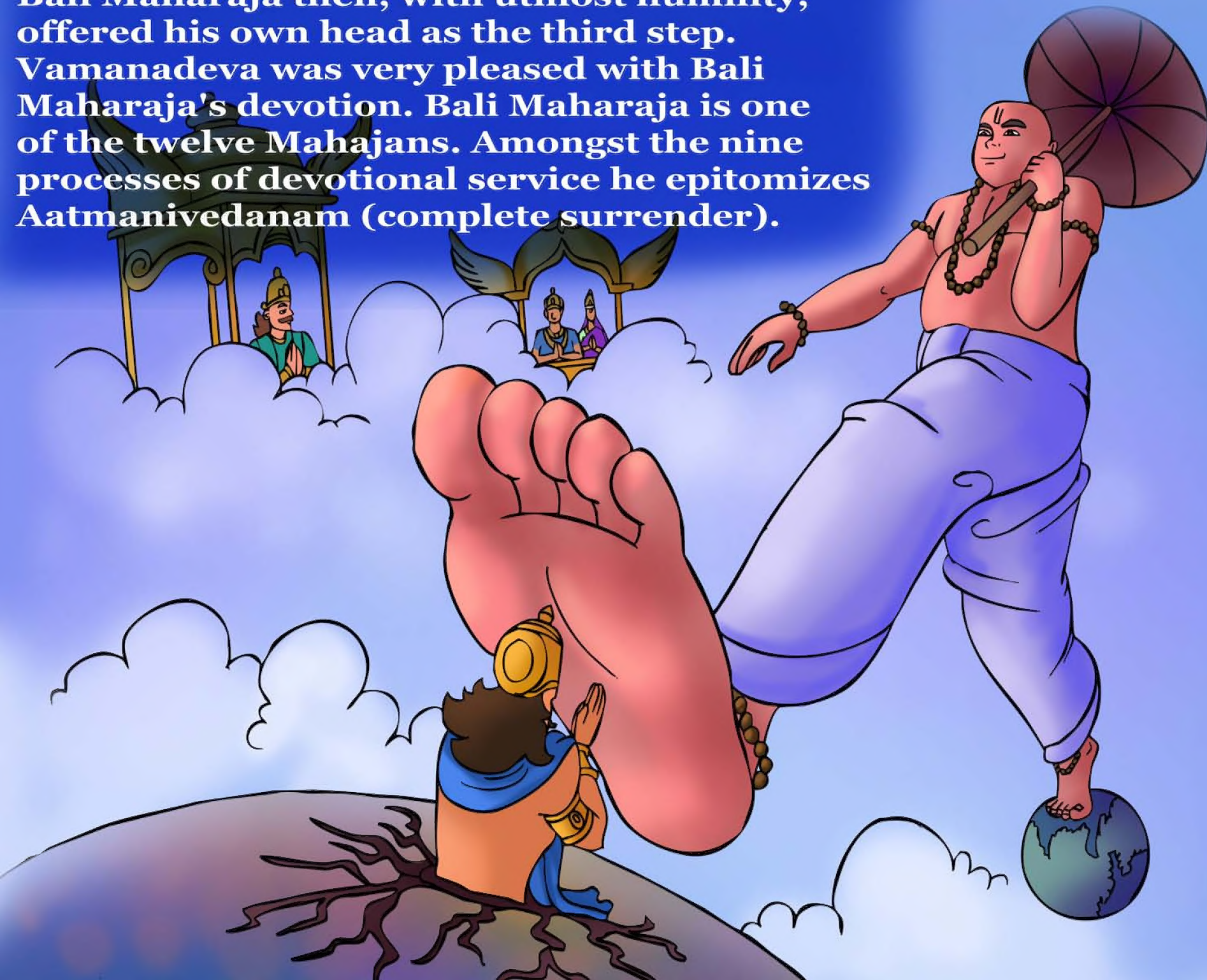
**In His next step, He covered the
entire cosmic manifestation.**



For His last step, He asked Bali Maharaja, where He could step as He had covered the entire cosmic manifestation.



Bali Maharaja then, with utmost humility, offered his own head as the third step. Vamanadeva was very pleased with Bali Maharaja's devotion. Bali Maharaja is one of the twelve Mahajans. Amongst the nine processes of devotional service he epitomizes Aatmanivedanam (complete surrender).



!!! Vamana Deva Ki Jai !!!

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